

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 10, 14, 15, 17 and 19-24 remain pending in the present application. Claims 2, 5, 11 and 12 have been cancelled. Claims 1, 3, 6, 10, 14, 15, 17, 19 and 20 have been amended. Basis for the amendments can be found throughout the specification, claims and drawings as originally filed.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 19 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Claims 19 and 20 have been amended to define at least two parallel surfaces of the partition board which Applicants believe reads on elected Figure 3.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 10, 19, 20, 21 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over JP 11-48753. Claims 2 and 11 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 2 depended from Claim 1. Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of Claim 2 and Claim 2 has been cancelled. Thus, Applicants believe Claim 1, as amended, patentably distinguishes over the art of record. Likewise, Claims 19

and 21, which depend from Claim 1, are also believed to patentably distinguish over the art of record. Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 11 depended from Claim 10. Claim 10 has been amended to include the limitations of Claim 11 and Claim 11 has been cancelled. Thus, Applicants believe Claim 10, as amended, patentably distinguishes over the art of record. Likewise, Claims 20 and 22, which depend from Claim 10, are also believed to patentably distinguish over the art of record. Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

REJOINDER

Applicants respectfully request the rejoinder of Claims 3, 4, 6, 14, 15, 17, 23 and 24.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

By:


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